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Process for the preparation of a crystalline solid of derivatives of (N,N-diacetic acid) glycine with an adequately reduced hygroscopicity

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Abstract of EP0845456

A method for the preparation of a crystalline solid comprising a glycine-N,N-diacetic acid derivative of formula (I) with a very low hygroscopicity, comprises fixing the water content of the starting material containing (I) at 10-30 wt.% and then carrying out crystallisation: $\text{MOOC-CH(R)-N(CH}_2\text{COOM)}_2$ (I) R = 1-30C alkyl or 2-30C alkenyl (both optionally containing 1-5 OH, formyl, 1-4C alkoxy(carbonyl) or phenoxy groups and/or optionally containing up to 5 non-adjacent O atoms in the chain), alkoxylate groups of formula (II), phenyl-(1-20 C)-alkyl (optionally containing up to 3 1-4C alkyl, OH, carboxyl, sulpho or 1-4C alkoxycarbonyl ring substituents), 5- or 6-membered optionally benzalated heterocyclic ring containing up to 3 N, O or S atoms (optionally containing up to 3 1-4C alkyl, OH, carboxyl, sulpho or 1-4C alkoxycarbonyl substituents) or a group of formula (III): $-(\text{CH}_2)_k\text{-O-(A<1>O)m-(A<2>O)n-Y}$ (II) $-\text{A-CH(COOM)-N(CH}_2\text{COOM)}_2$ (III) $\text{A<1>}, \text{A<2>} = 2\text{-}4\text{C } 1,2\text{-alkylene}; \text{Y} = \text{H, } 1\text{-}12\text{C alkyl, phenyl or } 1\text{-}4\text{C alkoxycarbonyl}; k = 1\text{-}3; m, n = 0\text{-}50; \text{A} = 1\text{-}12\text{C alkylene or single bond; and M} = \text{H, alkali(ne earth) metal or optionally substituted ammonium, with the provision that } m+n = \text{at least } 4.$

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